

Please amend the abstract as follows:

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for picking up and handling filled, closed rectangular bags, film packs and pouches, which have a bottom side, and two longitudinal sides, and are provided on the bottom side with a bottom fold. The pouches, standing on one of the longitudinal sides, are arranged in parallel to one another in a row and in each case are picked up with a gripper mechanism having comb-like, finger-like gripper elements on an opposite (upper) longitudinal side with the gripper elements being moved between the upper longitudinal sides of adjacent pouches. The gripper elements are moved in the longitudinal direction of the upper longitudinal sides, from the base side and pass the same, between adjacent longitudinal sides.